

I recently introduced H.R. 1146, the American Sovereignty Restoration Act, which would end our participation in the United Nations. Millions of Americans have begun to question why we continue to spend \$300 million each year funding and housing an organization that is actively hostile to American interests. Surely Congress, which routinely spends 15 minutes renaming post offices, can spare 15 minutes to vote on this fundamental issue of American sovereignty.

Obviously, many Americans now want to get out of the U.N. because they resent its refusal to sanction our war in Iraq. The administration deserves some credit for ultimately upholding the principle that American national sovereignty is not a matter of international consensus and that we do not need U.N. authorization to act.

But the administration sent mixed signals by doing everything possible to obtain such authorization, and by citing U.N. resolutions as justification for our actions. The message seems to be that the United Nations is credible when we control it and it does what we want, but lacks all credibility when it refuses to do our bidding.

Perhaps it is time to stop trying to manipulate the United Nations and start asserting our national sovereignty. If we do not, rest assured that the United Nations will continue to interfere, not only in our foreign policy, but in our domestic policies, as well. U.N. globalists are not satisfied by meddling only in international disputes; they increasingly want to influence our domestic, environmental, trade, labor, tax, and gun laws.

U.N. global planners fully intend to expand the organization into a true world government, complete with taxes, courts, and possibly a standing army. This is not an alarmist statement; these goals are readily promoted under on the U.N.'s own Web site.

U.N. planners do not care about national sovereignty. In fact, they are openly hostile toward it. They correctly view it as an obstacle to their plans. They simply are not interested in our Constitution and Republican form of government.

The choice is very clear: we either follow the Constitution, or submit to U.N. global governance. American national sovereignty cannot survive if we allow our domestic laws to be crafted or even influenced by an international body. This needs to be stated publicly more often. If we continue down the U.N. path, America, as we know it, will cease to exist.

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Noted constitutional scholar Herb Titus has thoroughly researched the United Nations and its purported authority. Titus explains that the U.N. charter is not a treaty at all but rather a blueprint for a supernational government that directly violates the Constitution. As such, the charter is neither politically nor legally binding

upon the American people or Government. The U.N. has no authority to make laws that bind American citizens because it does not derive its powers from the consent of the American people. We need to stop speaking of U.N. resolutions and edicts as if they represented legitimate laws or treaties. They do not.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am merely asking House leadership to schedule a vote on H.R. 1146, the American National Sovereignty Act. Americans deserve to know how their representatives stand on the critical issue of American sovereignty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1350, IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS (during the special order of Mr. RODRIGUEZ), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-79) on the resolution (H. Res. 206) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HISPANIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I take this hour tonight to talk about a critical issue back home and that is the issue of access to health care and quality care. In a Nation where we have some of the greatest research and the greatest strides that we have made in health, we still do not have individuals able to have access to health care.

The Hispanic Health Improvement Act is a comprehensive bill that we have filed aimed at improving Hispanic health in the United States. Hispanics are now the fastest-growing community and compose 13 percent of the United States population; yet they make up 23 percent of the total uninsured population, and nearly 37 percent of Hispanics under the age of 64 find themselves uninsured. We need to make sure that we address the problems of the uninsured. We need to make sure that we address the problems of access to health care.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased tonight to also be joined by the vice chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO). I am extremely pleased that we have this opportunity and the gentlewoman joins me here tonight, and I want to recognize the gentlewoman at this point in time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ). It is a pleasure to be here to speak to the issue of health services that are lacking, sadly, in not only our own districts but throughout the United States. I am sorry to report, Mr. Speaker, that the Bush budget sacrifices the health of our Nation to provide tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent.

The budget also fails to adequately address the problem of 41 million who go without health insurance; nearly 25 percent of those are uninsured children. Even 25 percent of the moderate-income families cannot afford health insurance. And eight out of 10 uninsured Americans are from working families of the United States. Unfortunately, Hispanics especially fall into this category. Over 33 percent, Mr. Speaker, of all Hispanics, 33 percent are uninsured, compared to 10 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

This Bush budget cuts funding for Medicaid coverage for children, for low-income seniors, for people in nursing homes, and especially for the disabled. This budget fails to provide adequate increases for the National Institutes of Health. It cuts funds for rural health care and cuts grants to trained doctors at so very critical children's hospitals. The budget eliminates funding for the Centers of Excellence program, the Health Career Opportunity program which increases the number of minority health care providers. We need to ensure linguistically and culturally appropriate health care by giving minority students the opportunity to enter into a health care profession and assist them with this education and training. By eliminating training for diversity programs, this administration would deny the opportunities for minorities to succeed.

The budget also sacrifices the health needs of the most vulnerable to provide tax cuts for the wealthiest. The budget provides, unfortunately, only 38 percent of the benefits to the wealthiest 1 percent of the Americans; that is to say, they are the ones who benefit the most. While middle-income families would get less than one dollar per day, with cuts in Federal aid to health care and no increased aid to States, the budget would exacerbate the current trend of higher State and local taxes.

Now we move into the Congressional Hispanic Caucus proposing a health care for the uninsured and the Hispanic Health Care Improvement Act that my colleague was just talking about. It is unfortunate that the number of uninsured in this Nation is alarming. Too